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PP RUEHWEB

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P 031253Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4382
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0257

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000237

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FOR WHA/CCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/03/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [EUN](#) [CU](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: DISCOURAGING EU DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSIONER'S VISIT TO CUBA

REF: STATE 20108

CLASSIFIED BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION JOSIE SHUMAKE, REASONS 1.
4(B), (D).

11. (C) POLCOUNS DELIVERED REFTTEL DEMARCHE MARCH 3 TO MFA
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR IBEROAMERICA JAVIER SANDOMINGO, URGING
THE GOS TO REINFORCE THE MESSAGE THAT EU DEVELOPMENT AND
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONER MICHEL'S VISIT TO CUBA
WAS INOPPORTUNE, AND, IF THE VISIT WENT FORWARD, MICHEL
SHOULD MEET WITH DISSIDENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY AND EMPHASIZE
TO THE GOC THE IMPORTANCE OF RELEASING OF ALL POLITICAL
PRISONERS.

12. (C) SANDOMINGO SAID MICHEL WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE THIS
VISIT AND THE GOS COULD NOT CHANGE HIS MIND. HE SAID THE GOS
FOCUS WAS ON MICHEL'S MESSAGE. WHILE THEY WERE NOT OVERLY
WORRIED BY MICHEL'S VISIT, THEY DID SEE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO LET THE GOC KNOW THAT THE RECENT EVENTS IN CUBA HAD BEEN
DISAPPOINTING. SANDOMINGO SAID THEY HAD URGED MICHEL TO
FOLLOW THE TWO-TRACK POLICY AND INSIST ON SOME SORT OF
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE OPPOSITION EVEN IF THE GOC RESISTED.
MORE BROADLY, SANDOMINGO SAID THIS WAS A MOMENT OF CONFUSION
IN CUBA AND THAT EU COOPERATION SHOULD RESUME BUT ON THE SAME
TERMS AS GOS ENGAGEMENT, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS INCLUDING THE
CHANCE TO WORK WITH FIGURES OUTSIDE THE GOC.
AGUIRRE